

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188169

TEGUCIGALPA FOR AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SOPN, US, MX

SUBJECT: MEETING IN SUPPORT OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE

REF: MEXICO 7032

1. DURING MEETING WITH MEXICAN AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI MORNING OF AUGUST 8, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS EXPRESSED CONCERN AND SURPRISE OF US OVER STATEMENTS ABOUT PUERTO RICO MADE BY PRI SECRETARY OF ORGANIZATION HERRERA AT AUGUST 3 MEETING AND ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PRI PRESIDENT REYES HEROLESAID PRI WOULD SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE HAVANA MEETING. LUERS POINTED OUT THAT WHILE WE REALIZED INDIVIDUAL PRI MEMBERS MIGHT HAVE RIGHT TO SPEAK THEIR MINDS, STATEMENTS BY RANKING PRI OFFICIALS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY
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BE INTERPRETED AS REFLECTING POSITION OF THE GOM. HE NOTED

THAT PUERTO RICANS HAVE HAD FULL OPPORTUNITY AT THE POLLS TO DECIDE THEIR STATUS, AND THAT ONLY SMALL MINORITY WERE PUSHING FOR INDEPENDENCE. LUERS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PRI REPRESENTATIVES WOULD NOT ATTEND HAVANA MEETING.

2. DE OLLOQUI SAID THAT HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF HERRERA, AND THAT THUS HE COULD NOT BE OF MUCH IMPORTANCE WITHIN THE PRI, EVEN THOUGH THE TITLE "SECRETARY OF THE ORGANIZATION" WAS

HIGH SOUNDING. HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE STATEMENT BY HERRERA WAS A REFLECTION OF GOM POLICY, BUT ADMITTED FRANKLY THAT THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE IN MEXICO, THEY MIGHT WELL BE INTERPRETED BY SOME AS BEING GOM POLICY. DE OLLOQUI SAID THAT HE WAS WELL AWARE THAT IN THE 1967 REFERENDUM LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF PUERTO RICANS VOTED FOR INDEPENDENCE AND THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS PROBABLY NOT A TRUE REFLECTION OF THE SIZE OF THE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE FEELINGS. BUT HE READILY ADMITTED THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF PUERTO RICANS FAVORED CLOSE ASSOCIATION OR STATEHOOD WITH THE U.S. TO INDEPENDENCE. HE SAID THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT REALIZES THAT FACT.

3. DE OLLOQUI SAID HE WOULD BRING OUR CONCERN TO THE DIRECT ATTENTION OF RABASA AND MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT MOYA PALENCIA AND WOULD EXPRESS HIS OWN OPINION THAT ATTENDANCE BY PRI REPRESENTATIVES AT THE HAVANA MEETING WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE. HE SAID HE BELIEVED HE WOULD BE ABLE TO BLOCK ANY PLANS THERE MIGHT BE FOR PRI ATTENDANCE AT HAVANA. KISSINGER

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